



News from Engadine Community Services (October 2021)



Message from Mel – ECS Manager

Last week was my 50th birthday, which was a magic coincidence with the same milestone for Engadine Community Services! Like ECS, my parties were designed by our amazing coordinators, Lynette and Lee, with help from two of our contractors, Mitchell and Sonia. The others contributed from their home bases.

The day was so fabulous, and it proved the accuracy of the saying "necessity is the mother of all invention". Lee demonstrated a new skill in window painting (see above), which you can expect to see more of when we reopen and Zoom delivered again, with a virtual afternoon tea for 12 of my family members to join me, most of whom I haven't seen for over a year, due to COVID restrictions. I also received innumerable birthday wishes via Facebook and text messages on my phone, thanks to the tech.



This month, we are looking forward to starting to reopen, beginning with the Toy Library click and collect service. We're thrilled with the new multicultural collection and additional ride-on toys, courtesy of a Community Grant from Sutherland Shire Council. In order to maintain our cleaning regimes and meet the Health Order, we will be operating Monday and Thursday afternoons only, 1-4 pm.

Our volunteers and staff are vaccinated and will be wearing masks, of course. Weather permitting, the exchange of toys will happen at the front door, at least until we're allowed to have visitors.

Running out of ideas to entertain the kids?

Sutherland Shire Toy Library

Located at 1034-1036 Old Princes Hwy, Engadine

- 500+ toys that cater to every stage of a child's development
- Baby toys, musical instruments, construction sets, puzzles, games
- Ride-on & outdoor play sets
- Allows play that enriches language, numeracy, fine motor skills, imagination & creativity
- Great for grandparents & part-time carers
- View catalogue & pre-book toys prior to collection by appointment

Click & Collect:
Monday 1-4pm
Thursday 1-4pm

For membership fees, incl. concessions:

<https://www.ecs.org.au/fun-for-kids>



To vaccinate or not to vaccinate?

The issue of vaccination is a tricky one, and one of the difficult decisions that have to be made by the ECS Management Committee when they meet at the end of September.

We have been instructed by our Child and Family Services funder, NSW Department of Communities and Justice, that we must have a Vaccination Policy which, among other things, ensures that all our workforce are fully vaccinated. Of course, we also have to consider the health and safety of our vulnerable Aged Services clients. We have the QR Code and sign-in processes already in place as part of our COVID Plan, but the next thing is what to do about requiring proof of vaccination.

Please know that we have an absolute commitment to serving the community and helping people in need, and the Vaccination Policy will be the result of weighing up the health advice and instructions from

Monday to Friday 9.30 am – 4 pm | 2nd & 4th Saturday each month 9 am – 12 noon
1034-1036 Old Princes Hwy, Engadine 2233 | T: 02 9520 7022 | E: admin@ecs.org.au | W: www.ecs.org.au



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our three government funders, as well as the conversations we've been having with clients during lockdown.

It's important that visitors to ECS understand this is likely to affect how you enter the building and the questions you will be asked before using ECS services. Please call me if you have concerns; and know that ECS Team members will not be exercising their personal views - paid staff and unpaid volunteers must follow all policies issued by the management committee.

Don't forget ECS' Annual General Meeting is 25th October

It's that time of the year again, when we report to the members of the legal entity of ECS, the Incorporated Association called Engadine Community Services Inc. This year, in addition to celebrating the achievements of the hardworking ECS Team, the voting members have a Special Motion to consider regarding a new ECS Constitution.

Due to COVID, we will be on Zoom again. However, there are computers in the office available for voting members who don't have a computer. Just ring Lee in the office to RSVP.

Copies of the annual report for July 2020 to June 2021 will be available by email or on our website.

Birthday Fun fact #14

Engadine Community Services started the 50+ Club in 2019, as a part of the Befriending project with Sutherland Shire Council and partner organisations across the Shire. The group is for people who are looking for social activities and are too young for the aged care services at ECS.

Do you have any ideas for local lunch spots for the 50+ Club to visit when [lockdown lifts] or would you like to join the invitation list for the monthly Coffee Catchup? We are doing a weekly E-SNIPPETS FOR SENIORS during lockdown. To join, email theclub@ecs.org.au

Birthday Fun fact #15

Lee Brack became Engadine Community Services' first Building Communities Coordinator in 2018. Her role encompasses all parts of ECS: Child & Family Services, the Community Resource Centre and Aged Services.



Meet Amalia Sicardi

ECS is the Secretariat for a working group of local in-home and community aged care providers called the Collaborative Against Abuse of Older People in Sutherland Shire, and Amalia is our artist!

At just 12 years old, Amalia has begun her community service at a young age by producing a series of drawings for a social media campaign to help victims of elder abuse. She was introduced to the Collaborative when her mum, Sia, answered a Facebook ad for pro bono artists by Collaborative Chairperson, Mel Paterson.

"I have to admit that I was a little sceptical about involving someone so young. Abuse of older people is a tough topic to discuss, let alone pictorialise, but Amalia's artwork is just what we needed to start the conversation. It is mature and bold, just like her!"

Amalia's four drawings have featured in a series of social media posts on Facebook and emails to community leaders in Sutherland Shire. The Collaborative are now developing a suite of information and education materials [see poster in photo] using the remainder of a ClubGrant and a new grant from NSW Ageing and Disability Commission, who operate the Abuse Helpline, on 1800 628 221.